

April 2, 2003 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance: Al Hunter, Alice Eagly, Dan Garrison, Hamlin Jennings, Ilya Kutik, Sonny Cyrtyebaum, Jack Doppelt, Al Farbman, Bill Halperin, Deborah Lucas, Eva Redei, Robert Ten Eick, Mario Ruggero, Bruce Wessels, Judith Willoughby

Members not present: Bill Gradishar, James Lindgren, Clayton Peimer, Sigmund Weitzman

1. Minutes

Members will email Al Hunter additional changes to the March minutes.

2. Admissions Process Points Revisited

There is much concern over whether NU is primarily accepting good students or good students who are good citizens as well. The NU student body needs to be made up of leaders and active participants interested in excelling in areas other than grades.

Many GFC members see the “one size fits all” application as a possible stumbling block for drawing out the most qualified students. Some feel the application itself is very lengthy. Many members view the essay portion as being especially questionable and feel that it does a grave injustice for both potential students and NU. This section is not geared for specific areas of study so an Engineer student is asked to fill out the same application and essay questions as an Arts and Sciences student.

GFC members agreed that the flawed application forms as well as the admissions process itself are appropriate issues to pursue. The process needs to become easier for the applicant in light of diversity and minority recruitment. Admissions criterion should come from faculty not from administration. Hamlin Jennings has agreed to research this topic for further discussion.

3. Report on Winter Quarter Faculty Senate Meeting

Childcare: Alice Eagly reported that a Childcare facility site is definitely being looked at on the Chicago campus and will be chosen very soon. Finding an Evanston site, on the other hand, is still in the works.

Athletics: Bruce Wessels reported that the Athletic issue is emerging nationally and is being looked at very closely by the administration. A standing committee in CIC will undertake the Athletic issue.

4. Committee Reports and Old Business

a. Charge to Committees: The General Faculty Committee now has a set of committees and chairs and will need to recruit more faculty members for the committees. Al Hunter requested that members forward to him the names of at least three individuals the chairs might be able to recruit.

Committee on Committees: Any member who has not yet given names of potential faculty will need to do so ASAP.

Committee Charge Paragraph: If not done so already, committee Chairs are being asked to submit a paragraph (a few lines only) explaining charges of each particular committee.

b. Contraceptive updates (6 Handouts): Alice Eagly gave a very informative presentation on the Contraceptive issue. The Benefits Committee made is clear that they would like the Contraceptive Benefit to be treated like any other type of medical coverage or expense.

Legal Concept: According to the EEOC it is strictly illegal to prohibit coverage of contraceptives based on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as a court decision (see EEOC handout). Employers are now on notice.

Cost: The Administration is using cost as a quantifiable factor in not supporting contraceptives as a medical benefit. According to the article written by Cynthia Dailard (See “Cost of Contraceptive Insurance Coverage” handout) there is evidence that it is not costly and that it actually saves organization money in the long run. In fact, research indicates that organizations actually lose money if this type of coverage is not given.

Al Hunter made a motion in favor of the Contraceptive proposal. GFC members approved the motion. The proposal includes four major points with supporting documentation to be presented. Jack Doppelt will send out an email to his colleagues announcing the contraceptive proposal.

c. Athletics: No action will be taken at this time.

d. status of adjuncts: GFC members have decided that this is a serious topic worth pursuing. The goal will be to look at the constituency of this NU body and tackle various issues associated with it. The GFC will first look at the number of adjuncts currently at the University and its consequence on academic integrity. Some other issues include exploitation of adjuncts, academic quality, categories of adjuncts and holes in the definition of what an adjunct is and does. GFC members would like to find out the number of classes being taught by adjuncts versus the number of classes taught by regular faculty.

Al Hunter recommends that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to find relevant facts and tackle issues associated with adjuncts.

5. New Business

a. Proposal for Mortgage Program for Faculty (1 Handout): This topic falls under the Benefits Committee, which is charged with exploring the issue further. In order to have something to compare with, committee members were asked to investigate benefits of comparable institutions in high price areas.

b. Proposal for Faculty Club/ Dining Facility (1 Handout): NU faculty members need to have a gathering spot where intellectual discourse could take place spontaneously. GFC members were asked to find out how many Universities of NU's caliber do not have a facility such as the one being proposed.

c. Agenda Topics for Central Administration Meeting on May 5: An agenda is needed for the upcoming meeting with Central Administration. Here are some of the proposed topics:

Topic #1(By Dan Garrison): Academic Integrity

It is currently very difficult to monitor the integrity of papers written by students. In the past, the University had instituted an on-line originality checking system which the Provost discontinued after a year because faculty was not using it. A major reason the system went unused was the

insufficient effort to involve faculty. Many faculty members did not even know this service was available. It is imperative that NU reinstate this service due to the many resources available to the student (such as the Internet). If reinstated, ongoing faculty publicity needs to go on for more than a few months. Educating faculty and familiarizing them on how students cheat should also be a priority.

Topic #2: Childcare

Topic #3: Contraceptives

If Jack Doppelt does not get an adequate response to the contraceptive issue then it should be a topic.

Topic #4: Admissions and Academic Integrity

Topic #5: Honor Code

Topic #6: Graduate Standards of Work

6. Other new business

a. survey of Faculty on GFC priorities: The GFC will conduct an email survey of faculty on GFC priorities.

b. Vice Chair: GFC members were asked to keep in mind the election, scheduled for the last meeting in June, of a new Vice-Chair.

Conclusion of meeting:

The next GFC meeting will be held on May 7, 2003 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

Minutes Submitted By:

Diana Snyder